







# 17 lakh Maharashtra govt employees strike work for OPS, services hit

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Over 17 lakh Maharashtra government employees went on a day's token strike on Thursday to press for their 18-point demand charter, the prime being implementation of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS), leaders said. The strike covered all government departments, including schools, colleges, hospitals from the block to the state level, hitting public services in many places. This was the second strike this year for OPS, the first one being in March for the same demand after which Chief Minister Eknath Shinde had appointed a panel to study the OPS and the New Pension Scheme. The panel, comprising top bureaucrats like Subodh Kumar, K. P.



Bakshi and Sudhir Kumar, has recently submitted its report to the state government. The staffers, under the Maharashtra State Government Employees Association (MSGEA) have taken out a massive procession in Nagpur in the past two days coinciding with the Winter Session of the Legislature there. This week, Deputy CM Ajit Pawar, who holds the Finance portfolio, said that the government would study the panel report and positively consider the demand for OPS before the 2024 Assembly elections.

Later, he assured that the government would take a decision before the upcoming budget session of the legislature in the first quarter of 2024. Deputy CM Devendra Fadnis has also committed that the government is positive towards the OPS but appealed to the state employees to call off their agitation. The duo said that the government would study the financial implications of the OPS vis-a-vis the NPS and take a decision accordingly. Meanwhile, the government staffers on strike, organised demonstrations and protests in different parts of the state today, including Mumbai, Nagpur, Thane, Raigad, Pune and other places, carried banners and posters and raised slogans for immediate implementation of OPS and their other demands.

## Decision on old pension scheme to be taken in next budget session: Eknath Shinde



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde Thursday said that the government will study the recommendations of the Subodh Kumar committee over the issue of old pension scheme (OPS) and take a decision on it in the next budget session of the legislature. Speaking in the legislative assembly during the Winter Session, Shinde said two additional chief secretaries will study the committee's report before the decision is made. The Chief Minister's announcement came hours after the government as well as semi-government employees and officials launched a strike to press for their demand of restoring the OPS. Earlier in the day, Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar told reporters in the Vidhan Bhavan premises here that CM Eknath Shinde has

assured government employees demanding restoration of the OPS that a decision on it will be taken before the upcoming budget session, which is generally held in February-March every year. CM Shinde said, "The state government is positive towards the demand of the state employees who went on strike today. We need some time to study the Subodh Kumar committee's recommendations. Additional chief secretaries of finance and services departments will study them. The state will take a decision about it in the next budget session." The government received the Subodh Kumar committee's report last week, he told the lower House of the legislature. Under the OPS, a government employee gets a monthly pension equivalent to 50 per cent his/her last drawn salary. There was no need for contribution by

employees. The OPS was discontinued in the state in 2005. Under the New Pension Scheme, a state government employee contributes 10 per cent of his/her basic salary plus dearness allowance with the state making a matching contribution. The money is then invested in one of the several pension funds approved by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) and the returns are market-linked. Meanwhile, Maharashtra Industries Minister Uday Samant Thursday said that the state attracted Rs 28,868 crore of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the last three months. As per the data on FDI released by the Union government, the state has regained its position as recipient of the highest FDI in the country, he said during a discussion in the legislative council in Nagpur.

# Two Maoists killed in encounter near Maha-Chhattisgarh border

Team Absolute | Gadchiroli (Maharashtra)

At least two Maoists were killed in an encounter with the police in the forests near the Maharashtra-Chhattisgarh border, an official said here on Thursday. The incident followed a tip-off that a large contingent of Maoists were camping near Bodhintola, around 10 km from the Godalwahi outpost in Chhattisgarh. The intel said that the Maoists were planning to ambush and carry out sabotage activities on the security forces and kill local tribals by branding them as police informers. On receipt of the information, police parties were



deployed to search the area on Thursday morning when the Maoists opened fire on them.

The police also retaliated and the exchange of fire went on for nearly an hour. After the firing stopped, the police teams carried out a search of the area which led to the recovery of the bodies of two Maoists along with their weapons, an AK-47 and an SLR rifle. One of the slain Maoists has been identified as Durgesh Watti, a deputy commander of the Kasansur Dalam, who was one of the chief conspirators of the deadly Jambulkheda blast of 2019 which killed 15 Gadchiroli Police officials. Efforts are on to identify the second body. Further combing and search operations in the region are continuing, said an official of Gadchiroli Police.

# Parliament security breach: Maha police end grilling of Latur youth's kin; to assist Central teams

Team Absolute | Latur

The Maharashtra Police are continuing investigations into the involvement of a Latur youth, Amol Shinde, who is one of the accused in the Parliament security breach case filed by Delhi Police, official sources said here on Thursday. Shinde, 25, an Indian Army and police job aspirant, is the youngest of four siblings and lives in Zari Village with his parents - Dhanraj and Kesarbai. He has two brothers and also a sister who is married. Hours after the sensational Parliament security breach in New Delhi on Wednesday, Latur Police, the local Crime Branch and Anti Terrorist Squad teams swooped in on his small dwelling in Zari. Since the house was very small, the police did not close the main door and carried out their investigations in full public view, rummaging through the cupboard, drawers and other places for documents, literature or any evidence to pinpoint Amol's leanings and antecedents. A senior police officer said that he was a dropout after standard XII and was jobless. They have not found any damning leads so far, including criminal history, links with any anti-national



outfits or political entities. The police took away the mobile phones of the family members, some diaries and other papers they found at the Shinde home, as almost the entire village turned out to view the security operations. "We have completed our preliminary probe... Now the Delhi Police are investigating at their end and we shall offer all cooperation or help required from here," the official, requesting anonymity, told reporter. Today, the Zari Village appeared quiet, with no police presence in uniforms or plainclothes, the locals going about their routine, but the Shinde

family, falling in the SC category, stayed at home. On Wednesday, the scene was different when the Shinde couple suddenly shot into limelight after the Parliament incident as police teams and the paparazzi descended on the sleepy village, around 40 kms from Latur town. Interrogated first by the police and then questioned by the media-persons, at one point the stunned couple, both farmer labourers, had even asked flat out, "Is our son alive or not?" They said Amol had left for Delhi on December 9 and called up the next day, saying he had gone there for Army and police recruitments, with earlier failed attempts in Ratnagiri, Nashik, New Delhi and Assam. The couple maintained that after his last call to them on December 10, they had no contacts with Amol and learnt of the Parliament security breach when the police landed at their doorstep on Wednesday afternoon. The Shindes claimed Amol was frustrated at not getting a job despite repeated attempts and he was depressed as "time was running out" to get any government jobs. Amol's brothers include one who is a mason doing seasonal jobs in different parts of the state and the other is a daily wager in the village.

## 80 in hospital with food poisoning after eating at wedding in Nagpur resort

Team Absolute | Nagpur

In a case of food poisoning, at least 80 persons were hospitalised as they fell ill after eating food served during a wedding ceremony at a resort on the outskirts of Nagpur city in Maharashtra, police said today. The incident took place on December 10, following which the businessman father of the bridegroom lodged a complaint against the resort management alleging that the food served during the function was stale and emitted a foul smell, the police said. The complainant, Kailash Batra, had booked the Rajasthani village-themed resort located on Amravati Road in Nagpur for two days - on December 9 and 10 - for the wedding of his son and the reception ceremony, an official of Kalmeshwar police station, where the complaint was lodged, said. "Trouble began in the afternoon of December 10 when the bridegroom and several guests experienced stomach pain after the meal there. The situation worsened during the reception ceremony the same night, when the food served to guests emitted a foul smell," the official said. The complainant raised the issue with the



resort management, but it failed to take corrective steps, he said. "Around midnight, at least 80 guests started vomiting and complained of nausea. They were admitted to a hospital," he said. Superintendent of Police (SP) Harsh Poddar said the officials of Kalmeshwar police station have been directed to record the statements of the hospitalised persons and collect their medical reports based on which a case would be registered against the resort management. According to police, some of the victims are still undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Wardhaman Nagar area of Nagpur.

# Mumbai user placed food orders worth Rs 42.3L on Swiggy this year

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Looking back at 'How India Swiggy'd in 2023', the online food delivery platform on Thursday revealed that a user from Mumbai alone spent Rs 42.3 lakh on food orders this year. The platform received the maximum orders by user accounts from Chennai, Delhi, and Hyderabad, who have placed more than 10,000 orders each. Biryani topped the charts as the most-ordered dish on Swiggy for the eighth straight year. India ordered 2.5 biryanis per second in 2023. For every 5.5 chicken biryanis, there was one vegetarian biryani ordered. "Biryani has been searched for a staggering 40,30,827 times on the platform. Every sixth biryani was ordered from Hyderabad and the champion of the biryani brigade was a Swiggy user from the city who ordered 1,633 biryanis this year. That is more than four biryanis a day," Swiggy said. Gulab Jamuns received over 7.7 million orders during Durga Puja. Alongside garba, Masala Dosa was the top favourite in vegetarian orders for all nine days of Navaratri. Idli reigned supreme when a customer from Hyderabad spent Rs 6 lakh on them.



With 8.5 million orders placed for everyone's favourite chocolate cake, Bengaluru was honoured as the 'Cake Capital'. During Valentine's Day in 2023, India ordered 271 cakes per minute, the company said. On Swiggy Instamart, a user from Jaipur placed 67 orders in a single day. The single highest order was worth Rs 31,748. This user from Chennai stocked up on coffee, juice, cookies, nachos, and

chips. This year, Swiggy's delivery partner covered an impressive 166.42 million green kms using electric vehicles and cycles, contributing to sustainable and eco-friendly delivery. Venkatasen, a delivery partner from Chennai, and Santhini from Kochi delivered a whopping 10,360 and 6,253 orders each. Going the extra mile, one of Swiggy's delivery partners travelled 45.5 km to deliver fast food.

## Manoj Jarange plans strategy amidst allegations of Maharashtra government's changing statements

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange Thursday claimed the Maharashtra government has changed its statements on the Maratha quota issue and hence he along with other members of the community will hold a meeting on December 17 to decide on how to take their agitation forward. Jarange had set December 24 as the deadline before the government to give reservation to Marathas. A meeting will be held on December 17 at Antarwali Sarati village in Jalna district to decide on how to take the agitation forward, the activist told reporters at a hospital in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar where he has been admitted. "We were supposed to hold a meeting of the Maratha community after December 24. But certain things have happened and because of that we are arranging the meeting earlier," he said. "The government earlier said it will withdraw cases in the Antarwali Sarati incident. Instead they arrested people there. The government changed its statements on Maratha reservation after listening to (state cabinet minister) Chhagan Bhujbal," Jarange claimed. A protest for Maratha reservation at Antarwali Sarati village in Jalna turned violent on September 1 leading to some people including police personnel getting injured. Jarange said, "The government has also not given us in writing about the Maratha reservation. Bhujbal speaks about violence but action is taken against us." Bhujbal, a prominent OBC leader, on Wednesday made a sensational claim saying there is a police input that he may be "shot dead" and revealed he has been receiving abuses and threats since the past two months amid the ongoing agitation for Maratha reservation.



The food and civil supplies minister has been vociferously opposing inclusion of the Marathas under the OBC category for reservation in jobs and education. Jarange criticised Bhujbal and claimed the minister was making statements to get cases (of alleged corruption) against him withdrawn. "Why would anyone fire bullets at Chhagan Bhujbal, our thinking is not that low. He is making this statement just because he wants to get his security increased. We also faced difficulties but we never cried about that. But I will speak about it on December 24," he added. Meanwhile, reacting to the threat perception to Bhujbal, Maharashtra Industry Minister Uday Samant has said that the Home Department will take the necessary action after talking to him. "The safety of the members of the House and people outside the house is the responsibility of the government. Our Home department will take the necessary action after talking to Chhagan Bhujbal as this government is ready to provide safety to everyone...The CM will reply on the Maratha Reservation as soon as possible," he said.

# Six held as Maharashtra Police claim to have foiled a robbery bid in Raigad district

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The police in Maharashtra's Raigad district Thursday arrested six persons and claimed to have prevented a robbery at a godown of a company, an official said. The Khopoli police in the district were alerted

around 12.50 am on Wednesday that a group of men were planning to commit robbery at a godown stocked with iron products, the official said. A team led by inspector Balasaheb Khade of the local crime branch laid a trap and arrested six men when they arrived at the godown. The police recovered a country-made pistol,

worth about Rs 45,000, with a live cartridge, knives, iron rods and chilli powder from the suspects, he said. A case has been registered against the six under the Indian Penal Code and Maharashtra Police Act, the official said, adding that a local court has remanded them in police custody till December 16.



EDITOR'S SPECS

### Exuberant markets touch new high

Thanks to the dovish narrative from the US Fed at the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting, the Nifty 50 on Thursday scaled to an all-time high level and crossed the 21,100-mark for the first time, said Pranav Haridasan, MD and CEO at Axis Securities. While the Nifty ended at 21,182.70, up 256.35 points, the Sensex closed at 70,514.20, up 929.60 points. Several factors contributed to Nifty's rally. There was a nearly 100 basis point decrease in US 10-year bond yields from their recent peak. The status quo maintained by the RBI, with a positive revision in FY24 GDP from 6.5 per cent to 7 per cent, sequential improvement in the high-frequency indicators, and robust earnings growth expectations contributed to this momentum. The election results in three out of four key states have raised the expectations of policy continuity in 2024, boosting market confidence. "We can see a further new high in the market if the bond yields and the crude prices remain at the same levels for the entire month. Largecaps seem better placed at current levels in terms of overall valuations. Based on a favourable macroeconomic picture compared to other emerging markets, flows may shift towards large caps, especially largecap banks, in the near term," Haridasan said. Nagaraj Shetti, Senior Technical Research Analyst at HDFC Securities, said that after showing a smart upside recovery from intra-day lows on Wednesday, Nifty witnessed hefty upmove on Thursday and closed the day higher by 256.35 points. After opening with a sharp upside gap of 184 points, the market moved up further soon after the opening. It later shifted into a narrow intra-day range for better part of the session.

# China invoking 'civilisational' strength for its advancement

D.C. Pathak

Strategic analysts have noted that President Xi Jinping has in his quest for making China the other superpower rivalling the USA, embarked on a three-fold strategy - he has initiated the process of 'Sinicization' of Marxism, ensured the reassertion of the supremacy of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in every sphere and given a conscious call for recognising the 'civilisational strength of the Chinese nation'. China under Xi is pursuing the economic route to becoming a superpower and wants time to achieve the mission - without running into any distraction of a military confrontation. This came out clearly in his long bilateral meeting with US President Joe Biden during the recent APEC conference in San Francisco - at the end of which Xi would have reasons to feel satisfied with the emphasis Biden had laid on the US not seeking any 'conflict' with China. The two leaders had largely focused on their commitment to economic growth and global advancement and expressed their agreement on cooperation in such diverse areas as Artificial Intelligence, Environment and Counter-narcotic work. Marking the rapid rise of Xi since 2012 when he first became the General Secretary of the CPC, the 19th National Congress of the party held in 2017 incorporated Xi Jinping Thought on 'Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era' in the Party Constitution. The People's Congress in March 2018 went on to amend the Constitution of the People's Republic of China to mention Xi's Thought in it. This had happened only twice in the past with the leadership of Mao Dezhong and Deng Xiaoping. Xi's Thought is said to combine Chinese Marxism with National Rejuvenation. It was hailed by the 19th Central Committee of CPC in 2021 in a unanimous resolution as a 'new breakthrough in the Sinicization of Marxism'. Significantly, Xi's analysis of why the USSR disintegrated was that the party organs of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) had at all levels lost their functions and in particular, the military was no longer under CPSU leadership because of which 'a great party was scattered' and the Soviet Union, 'a great Socialist country', was dismembered. The 14-point Xi Jinping Thought stipulated among other things, ensuring CPC leadership over all forms of work in China including absolute leadership on PLA, the continuation of comprehensive deepening of reforms, governing



China with the Rule of Law, improving people's livelihood and well-being as the primary goal of development and practising Socialist core values including Marxism-Leninism and 'Socialism with Chinese characteristics'. A cult of personality has been developing around Xi since he became the General Secretary of the CPC and the country's paramount leader. The party has been projecting him as representing the best of both Mao Dezhong and Deng Xiaoping. In 2019, the Politburo of the CPC named Xi as the People's Leader - a title only Mao had held previously. The Central Party School of the CPC in 2020 labelled Xi Jinping Thought as '21st century Marxism', claimed that it was the only scientific method to explain the 'Chinese Miracle of the 21st century' and contended that it was the only 'solution for the modern problems of humankind'. It maintained that socialism is better than capitalism. At China's National People's Congress in March 2023 in Beijing, Xi was awarded a third 5-year term as President putting him on track to stay in power for life. In what seems to be a definite element in Xi's strategy, the Chinese President highlights China's 5000-year-old civilisation and places a profound emphasis on the preservation and development of its 'fine cultural traditions'. Xi Jinping Thought seeks to build the party's confidence in history and culture to a new high

and believes that Chinese civilisation should be known for its 'continuity, innovativeness, unity, inclusiveness and peaceful nature'. Clearly, Xi wants to use China's civilisational strength to advance 'national rejuvenation', promote unity at home and give an impression to the world outside that China stands for peace. There is an underlying message in Xi Jinping Thought that opposes the 'cultural hegemony of the West' and possibly also counters any attempt of India to use the soft power of an ancient civilisation to deal with a hostile Marxist state next door. Xi intends to integrate the basic tenets of Marxism with China's traditional culture as a strategy for dealing with the complex international landscape. It is appropriate and timely for the Narendra Modi regime to strengthen the sense of nationalism amongst Indians and make them aware of the glorious civilisational past of India that had been, in a substantial measure, shut off by the colonial masters and later kept in oblivion for reasons of politics. In a multi-religious setting like India, the traditions of ancient culture that promoted the quest for knowledge, upheld an assimilative approach by shunning any claims of supremacism for a particular faith and attached importance to humanism, should be appreciated by all communities and sections of society. All this will automatically generate feelings of

national unity and lead to a realistic appraisal of who the nation's friends and enemies are. It is said that in the court of Lord Ram respect was given to even Sage Charvak who was an advocate of agnosticism. In today's world that faces unanticipated geopolitical shifts, it is vital that a world power like India should try to be self-dependent in handling security, economic growth and international relations. Prime Minister Modi has rightly taken this strategic approach which is already yielding rich dividends. The Sino-Pak axis operating against India remains this country's major security concern - in part because of its covert hand behind the propping up of anti-India lobbies on issues like alleged lack of protection for minorities, the 'rise of authoritarianism' and 'promotion of majoritarianism'. The two hostile neighbours of India are joining hands in conducting 'covert' operations here - the use of Chinese drones by Pakistan for dropping arms and narcotics in Punjab illustrates this. While India has successfully countered the threat of cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan in Kashmir and elsewhere, the challenge from a hostile China spreads from our borders to the Indian Ocean and the entire range of international relations. Xi is pursuing the ambition of making China the second superpower after the US through economic, military and technological means and having emerged as the supreme leader of China in the mould of Mao Zedong, is driving the strategy of establishing the stranglehold of the CPC on the civil and military affairs on one hand and practising an extremely 'nationalistic' version of Marxism on the other, to achieve total unity internally and speed up the economic and political expansion of Chinese influence outside. The adversarial profile of China is likely to become harder from India's point of view, in the days ahead. India has no alternative to building its own strength and firming up its bilateral and multilateral relationships in the democratic world to counter the growing alliance between the Marxist dictatorship of China and a fundamentalist Pakistan that was conniving with the anti-Islamic radical forces out to increase their foothold in the Muslim world. (The writer is a former Director of the Intelligence Bureau. Views are personal)

## international

## US House Republicans vote to authorise impeachment inquiry into Biden

Washington | Agencies  
The Republican-led US House of Representatives has voted to authorise impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden, in a 221-212 vote along party lines. "The impeachment power resides solely with the House of Representatives," Xinhua news agency quoted Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan, a hardliner within the Republican party, as saying to reporters after the vote late Wednesday night. "If a majority of the House now says we're in an official impeachment inquiry as part of our constitutional duty to do oversight, that carries weight. That's going to help us get these witnesses in," said the Ohio Republican, one of the leaders of the impeachment push. Republicans hope that the impeachment inquiry would give them better legal standing to hold the President's son Hunter Biden in contempt of Congress should he fail to show. Hunter Biden, the first child of a sitting president to be criminally indicted, appeared at a news conference outside the Capitol on Wednesday morning, when he again offered to testify in a public hearing,



his son Hunter Biden struggles to avoid prison in tax and gun-related cases. But, even if the House ultimately opts to impeach Joe Biden, the Democrat-controlled Senate is all but certain to acquit him. In a statement following the vote, President Biden said: "The American people need their leaders in Congress to take action on important priorities for the nation and world. "Instead of doing their job on the urgent work that needs to be done, they are choosing to waste time on this baseless political stunt that even Republicans in Congress admit is not supported by facts." This year has seen President Biden's popularity fall amid still elevated inflation and intensifying Israel-Palestine war, among other factors. An NBC News poll last month found that Joe Biden's popularity stood at its lowest in his presidency, with most voters viewing him in a 'negative' light. On the Republican side, the race has been dominated by former President Donald Trump, who is only bolstered among his voting base by the four criminal indictments he faces.

## Heavy snow in Beijing suspends train operations, schools remain closed

Beijing | Agencies  
Beijing continues to be blanketed by heavy snow on Thursday, with train operations affected and schools still suspended. In response to the weather, Beijing's railway stations canceled at least 153 trains as of 10 a.m. Thursday, reports Xinhua news agency. Primary schools, secondary schools, and kindergartens in Beijing started suspending classes on Wednesday, and the resumption of in-person classes will be announced later, according to the Beijing Municipal Education Commission. The Beijing Meteorological Observatory said the average precipitation in the city from 5 a.m. to midnight Wednesday was 2.7 mm, with an average of 3.1 mm in the urban area. On Thursday, moderate to



heavy snow was forecast in the daytime and light snow at night. The weather forecast also noted that the highest temperature in the city on Thursday would be minus 2 degrees Celsius, and the lowest would

be minus 5 degrees. Following this round of snow, which is expected to end on Friday, the city will be hit by a cold wave, with minimum temperatures expected to drop below minus 10 degrees at night. The city is still on an orange alert for heavy snow, a yellow alert for icy roads, and a blue alert for cold waves. In addition to Beijing, parts of the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, Shaanxi, Shanxi, Hubei, Henan, Hebei, Shandong, and Liaoning will be hit by heavy snow from Wednesday evening to Thursday evening, according to the National Meteorological Centre (NMC). The NMC also renewed a yellow alert for a cold wave, predicting that temperatures in most parts of China will drop by 8 to 12 degrees Celsius from Wednesday evening to Saturday. In central Henan province, the provincial capital of Zhengzhou, and the cities of Kaifeng, Luoyang, and Anyang, schools were suspended on Thursday due to the extreme weather.

## Senior Hamas leader suggests recognition of Israel

Tel Aviv | Agencies  
For the first time since Hamas launched its unprecedented attack against Israel on October 7, a senior leader of the militant group said they could recognise the Jewish nation as part of the Palestinian unity talks. Mousa Abu Marzouk, one of the highest-ranking Hamas leader who has been actively meeting global leaders to garner support, told Arab mediators that the official stance was that the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) had recognised Israel and that Hamas should follow



it. This is being seen as a move for peace from the Hamas side as the Israel military is putting grave pressure on the militant group's leadership and the possibility of its

ouster from the Gaza Strip. Hamas has always openly sought Israel's destruction and vowed to commit similar onslaughts to the one carried out on October 7. The PLO, which heads the Palestine Authority that runs the West Bank, had recognized Israel as part of Oslo Accords signed between then PLO leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli President Yitzhak Rabin on September 13, 1993. Rabin was assassinated in Israel in 1995 by a person who belonged to an extreme right-wing group who was against the Oslo Accords.

## Israel cancels Mossad chief's Qatar trip to resume hostage talks

Jerusalem | Agencies  
The Israeli government has cancelled Mossad chief David Barnea's planned trip to Qatar for the resumption of talks on a possible second hostage release deal, an informed source said on Thursday. The 58-year-old, who became the Director of Israel's foreign intelligence service on June 2021, will not travel to Doha, where talks on the release of hostages held by Hamas militants in Gaza had taken place earlier, the source told CNN. Israel's Channel 13 first reported on Wednesday that the country's war cabinet, led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, had called off the trip. It added that senior Israeli officials will not go to Qatar to restart negotiations.



The Mossad answers directly to the Prime Minister. Around 240 people, from infants to octogenarians, were taken hostage during the Hamas' attack on Israel on October 7. The Israeli Prime Minister's office believes 135 hostages remain in Gaza, 116 of whom are alive. During the now-collapsed humanitarian pause from November 24-30, 86 Israeli

and 24 foreign national hostages were released. On Tuesday, two additional bodies were retrieved. Before the pause, four civilian hostages had been released by Hamas, one Israeli soldier was rescued, and bodies of three hostages were retrieved. Formal negotiations have not resumed since hostage talks that had been taking place in Doha broke down earlier this month. But Israel, the US and Qatar have continued to discuss ways to try to jump start the discussions, CNN quoted sources as saying. Meanwhile, families of some of the Israeli hostages were outraged by the decision to cancel Barnea's trip and demanded answers.

## New York City Mayor says Hamas must be destroyed

Tel Aviv | Agencies  
New York City Mayor Eric Adams said that Hamas has to be destroyed. Referring to the October 7 attacks by Hamas, the Mayor in a letter to the Hostages and Missing Families Forum said: "The Hamas organization has to be destroyed. A situation where those responsible for this terrible crime have not yet been brought to justice is a failure." The Hostages and Missing families Forum in a statement said that the New York Mayor hosted the families of the hostages at his home in New York and the occasion was marked by the lighting of the



sixth Hanukkah candle. The statement said that the families lit the Hanukkah menorah together with the Mayor. The families of the hostages thanked the Mayor for the support of President Joe Biden and the US to Israel and asked him to continue the support to

increase American pressure on Qatar and Egypt to release the hostages from Gaza. Adams said, "We are at a defining moment, a moment when we understand the importance of light and what it symbolizes, especially after the terrible events of October 7. We want to be clear in our call: Hamas must be destroyed." "I stand with the families of the hostages who came to New York to express the demand to bring their loved ones home now. It is a failure that those responsible for these heinous crimes are not brought to justice when there are hostages in Gaza while the networks are filled with hate," he added.



## IMPLEMENTATION OF SANKALP PATRA-2023 SHOULD BE DONE IN MISSION MODE: CHIEF MINISTER DR. MOHAN YADAV

The goal of our government is to change people's lives under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi. Mohan Yadav gave instructions regarding the implementation of the resolution

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the aim of our government is to change the lives of people by realizing the mantra of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas. The common people have expressed their trust in the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, the process of development is continuing under his leadership. Our objective is to bring the goals of development and public welfare to the ground in line with the Resolution 2023. Ensure achievement of the tar-



get within the time limit by starting the work in mission mode to fulfill all promises, resolutions and declarations of all departments. Chief

Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav was addressing a meeting organized in the ministry to provide guidance on the resolution letter of the newly

formed government. Chief Secretary Veera Rana along with all Additional Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries, Secretaries, Heads of Departments and General Managers of various Corporation Divisions were present in the meeting.

### IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING WILL BE DONE BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav said that regular monitoring of the effective implementation of the announcements of Sankalp Patra-2023 will be done at the Chief Secretary level. A separate portal should also be created for this and the system of online feeding, monitoring and reporting of information should be ensured. This Resolution includes the guarantees given by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the people of the state, all department heads should take their implementation seriously and prepare a roadmap to ensure the achievement of the target within the time frame. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav said that if there is any problem in the implementation of the points given in the resolution and in meeting the target within the time frame, then the matter should be brought to the notice of the Chief Minister immediately.

### IMMEDIATELY, TRANSPARENT, ACCOUNTABLE AND RESPONSIVE GOVERNANCE SHOULD BE ENSURED AT EVERY LEVEL

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav said that all activities should be carried out in an environment of complete transparency, fairness and corruption. Good governance is paramount for the government. The goals of development and public welfare can be achieved through good governance. Prompt, transparent, accountable and responsive governance should be ensured at every level. Good governance is not just a word, we have to show it in action.

### DO NOT DELAY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav said that the two departments should work in coordination with each other regarding the resolutions which are related to more than one department. Immediate orders should be issued with competent approval in such cases where there is no financial burden in relation to the implementation of resolutions or there is no need to take any kind of new ethical decision where financial resources are already available. In the implementation of the resolutions, separate budget provision is required, in this regard, immediately discuss with the Finance Department to ensure the availability of the necessary budget and in case of difficulty, ensure immediate coordination with the Chief Secretary. Any inquiry into the existing process of implementing resolutions requiring ethical decision-making should be brought before the Cabinet for approval as soon as possible.

### NAXALITE KILLED IN ENCOUNTER IN BALAGHAT



Balaghat: A Naxalite has been killed in an encounter between police and Naxalites in Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh. The security forces have also recovered weapons from the spot.

According to the information received from the police, the Hawk Force team started a search operation on the night of Wednesday-Thursday after receiving information about the presence of Naxalites in the Souphkar forest of Garhi police station area near Kanha National Park in Balaghat district. During the search operation, the security forces saw the Naxalites and started firing on them. Seeing the police action the Naxalites ran away.

A police officer has said that after the escape of the Naxalites, when the security forces inspected the spot, the body of a Naxalite was recovered. This Naxalite has been identified as Chetu alias Madkama Hidma, resident of Bijapur, Chhattisgarh.

There was a reward of about Rs 14 lakh on this Naxalite and he was active in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

## Shivraj wrote 'Brother and uncle' in his social media bio



Team Absolute | Bhopal

Former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chauhan has made a big change in his bio on social media and has written himself as 'brother and uncle'. There is no mention of Bharatiya Janata Party anywhere in the bio.

Actually, Shivraj Singh Chauhan is in the news after his removal from the post of CM. Everyone is keeping an eye on his every activity. On Thursday, a big change was seen in the bio of his X account. In this they have described themselves as 'brother and uncle'. Chauhan has made such

statements in the last few days which have become a topic of discussion in political circles. Once he wrote 'Ram-Ram' on social media and then he even said that he will not go to Delhi to ask for anything for himself, it is better to die than that.

Apart from this, after resigning the post, he said, 'Keep the chadriya as it is.' Now, 'Bhai Aur Mama' has come in his bio. In the politics of the state, Chauhan is recognized as the maternal uncle of daughters and brother of sisters. Now, he has tried to convey the same thing through the bio of his social media account.

## Governor Mangubhai Patel administers oath of office to Gopal Bhargav as Protem Speaker

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Governor Mangubhai Patel administered the oath of Protem Speaker of the Legislative Assembly to Gopal Bhargav at Raj Bhavan. The oath taking ceremony was held in the Durbar Hall of Raj Bhavan. Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, Deputy Chief Minister Jagdish Deora, Deputy Chief Minister Rajendra Shukla were also present in the ceremony. The oath ceremony programme was conducted by Principal Secretary Legislative Assembly Awadhesh Pratap Singh.



On this occasion, MLAs, Chief Secretary Veera Rana, Director General of Police Sudhir Kumar Saxena, Additional Chief Secretary

Vinod Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Governor D.P. Ahuja, Legislative Assembly officials and other officials were present.

## CONGRESS HOLDS LEGISLATURE PARTY MEETING IN KAMAL NATH'S ABSENCE

Team Absolute | Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh Congress held a legislative party meeting at party headquarters in Bhopal on Thursday without the presence of state unit head Kamal Nath.

Kamal Nath's absent from the meeting have fueled speculations about whether the Congress would change the leadership in Madhya Pradesh or the veteran leader will continue till the Lok Sabha elections.

However, Kamal Nath during a public meeting in his home town Chhindwara on Wednesday has said that he has no plan to shift Delhi and will continue to serve the people of Madhya Pradesh.

The Congress legislatures assembled to discuss on future course of action regarding the upcoming Lok Sabha election and also to make their



consensus to select the Leader of Opposition (LoP).

Notably, the former LoP Govind Singh lost the assembly election from

Lahar constituency of Bhand district. Several senior Congress leaders have been in race to grab this opportunity.

Congress General Secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala, who is in-charge of Madhya Pradesh and Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh addressed the legislative party meeting.

Sources told IANS that during the meeting, a consensus on next state unit chief and the LoP has been made and the final decision would be taken by the central leadership.

Senior Congress leader Ajay Singh (Rahul) -- LoP from 2013 to 2018 -- told media persons that all decisions will be taken by the central leadership.

Congress contested the assembly election under the leader of Madhya Pradesh Congress President Kamal Nath and lost bitterly to BJP and could secure only 66 seats against 114 it had won in 2018.

## Politics heated up due to decision to ban open meat sale and loud loudspeakers

Team Absolute | Bhopal

As soon as he took charge as the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Dr. Mohan Yadav has taken many big decisions, in which politics has heated up after the decision to ban the sale of meat and eggs in the open and playing loud loudspeakers.

While Congress has called it a malicious decision, BJP has considered it necessary. Dr. Mohan Yadav was sworn in as the Chief Minister of the state on Wednesday along with two Deputy Chief Ministers Rajendra Shukla and Jagdish Deora. The first cabinet meeting was held late in the evening and it was decided that there would be no sale of meat and eggs in open places in the state. Not only this, there has been a ban on playing loudspeakers more loudly than the prescribed norms in religious places



and other events.

Along with this, instructions have also been given for necessary action. Congress MLA from Bhopal Central Arif Masood has said that if the gov-

ernment had talked about farmers, about reducing inflation and unemployment, we too would have welcomed it. But the decision taken shows bad intentions. As far as ban

on loud sound of loudspeakers is concerned, this order is not new, I have also studied the guidelines of the Supreme Court.

Regarding the ban on sale of meat in the open, Arif Masood said that there is already talk of covering (meat). This is the rule. Municipal Corporation and Municipality are responsible for this. What new and big work did the Chief Minister do on this?

BJP state president Vishnu Dutt Sharma welcomed the decision taken in the first cabinet of the government and said that as per the order of the High Court, the decision has been taken to control the noise pollution caused by DJs and loudspeakers. Instructions have been issued to ban uncontrolled and illegal use of loudspeakers, which will reduce the problems of the common people.

## Woman killed by live-in partner in Indore for refusing sex, accused arrested

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A 20-year-old woman in Madhya Pradesh's Indore was killed by her live-in partner for allegedly refusing to have a physical relationship with him, police said on Wednesday.

Police made the shocking revelation three days after the body of woman was found lying in a pool of blood at the accused's residence.

As per the police, the body of the woman was found on December 9, two days after she was killed. The accused had locked the door of his house and run away.

During the investigation, police found that the victim was in relationship with Praveen Singh Dhakad and was living at his rented house in Indore.



Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police Abhinav Vishwakarma told reporters on Wednesday that the woman was killed in the rented house in the Raoji Bazaar area on December 7 and her body was recovered by police two days later.

Dhakad, 24, who hails from Guna district, got furious when she refused to have physical relations with him and stabbed her in the neck

with a pair of scissors, he said. The woman started bleeding profusely and died on the spot, said Vishwakarma. The accused panicked and fled after locking the house from outside and also took away her mobile phone, he added.

Police said the accused was arrested on Wednesday following a three-day-long search operation.

## AIIMS Bhopal Excels at the National Biomedical Research Competition - 2023

Team Absolute | Bhopal

AIIMS Bhopal proudly announces the outstanding achievements of its representatives at the 4th chapter of the National Biomedical Research Competition-2023 (NBR-COM-2023), hosted by SYBS India. The highly anticipated competition unfolded at ESIC Medical College & Hospital, Alwar, Rajasthan, on December 9th and 10th, 2023, showcasing the brilliance and innovation of participants from across the nation.

Dr. Sravan JS, a Senior Resident in the Department of Forensic Medicine at AIIMS Bhopal, has been honored with the prestigious 'Young Researcher Award' in the Health Sciences category. Dr.



Sravan's groundbreaking presentation featured an innovative technique for determining the cause of death using Cardiac Biomarker POCT (Point-of-Care Testing). His exceptional contribution not only showcased his commitment to advancing medical research but also earned him a well-deserved cash prize. Furthermore, Aswini Chandran, a dedicated Ph.D. scholar in the Department of Forensic Medicine at AIIMS Bhopal, received the coveted 'Best Presentation Award' in the Life Sciences category.

Chandran's work on Postmortem Bacteriology demonstrated a high level of expertise and garnered recognition for its excellence in the field. The success of Dr. Sravan JS and Aswini Chandran at NBR-COM-2023 reflects AIIMS Bhopal's commitment to fostering a culture of innovation and excellence in biomedical research. Their accomplishments contribute not only to the institution's reputation but also to the advancement of knowledge and practices in the field of medicine. Prof. (Dr) Ajai Singh, Executive Director, AIIMS Bhopal has extended heartfelt congratulations to Dr. Sravan JS and Aswini Chandran for their remarkable achievements at the National Biomedical Research Competition-2023.

## Youth murdered with liquor bottle in lodge

Team Absolute | Bhopal

A sensational case of murder of a youth living in Sapna Lodge located in Ghodanakkas area of Hanumanganj police station area of the old city has come to light. On the basis of initial investigation, the charge of murder has been leveled against a young man who was living in the room next to the deceased in the lodge for the last several days, who absconded after the incident. There was a close acquaintance between the deceased and Sadenhi, and both of them often drank alcohol together. It is reported that last night, when there was a dispute between them while drinking alcohol, the accused attacked the deceased with a liquor bottle. The deceased died after his hand got cut in the attack. According to the information received from the police station, 44-year-old Amandeep Singh, son of Harkable Singh, lived in Trilanga area of Bhopal. The first wife



of Amandeep, who worked in marketing in a private company, has passed away. He is survived by his second wife, two daughters and a son. While the second wife lives abroad, their children live in the Trilanga house. Police investigation revealed that Amandeep was addicted to drinking alcohol. In his drunken state, he used to have fights with his family mem-

bers every day. Due to increasing disputes, Amandeep was staying in Sapna Lodge with a room for about one and a half months, and used to eat food in the lodge itself. In the same lodge itself, in the room adjacent to Amandeep's room, a young man named Brijwasi, a resident of Uttarakhand, was staying for the last several days. During this time they

had become quite acquainted. Police further said that on Tuesday night, Aman and Nitin were drinking alcohol together in the lodge room. While drinking alcohol, an argument broke out between the two over some issue. In the growing dispute, accused Nitin got angry and attacked Amandeep with a glass bottle. To escape, Amandeep must have moved his hand forward, due to which the vein of one of his hands was badly cut due to the bottle and he died due to rapid bleeding. After the incident, accused Nitin fled from there. Amandeep shouted for help and when the lodge staff reached the room, they saw him lying in a pool of blood. After informing the police about the incident, the hotel management immediately took Amandeep to the hospital for treatment where he died. The police have established a track and handed over the body to the family members after the PM and are actively searching for the absconding accused.



## MADONNA DONS LEATHER CORSET, STOCKING IN RACY SNAPS

Los Angeles | Agencies

Pop legend Madonna has stunned her fans with racy snaps on social media as she celebrated the end of her European tour dates.

The 65-year-old pop icon kicked off her Celebration world tour at the O2 Arena in London on 14 October, and since then, has been impressing the audience at her sold out gigs, reports Mirror.co.uk. She has performed in Antwerp, Copenhagen, Stockholm, Barcelona, Lisbon, Paris Cologne, Milan, and Berlin, and then returned to London for two more back-to-back gigs before heading over the US for the next leg of her tour.

As per Mirror.co.uk, Madonna shared a short clip on Instagram, highlighting the behind-the-scenes action, which included her posing alongside special guests such as her friend Stella McCartney while wearing a series of racy outfits. One ensemble was a throwback to her iconic Jean Paul Gaultier cone bra outfit, as she rocked a black corset bodysuit.

In another picture, she provocatively posed in the bathroom while wearing a military-style cap, and later was seen laid on a red velvet sofa wearing large sunglasses while backstage. "European photo dump.... See you tomorrow in The Big Apple!" she captioned the post.

Madonna is already in New York ahead of her sell-out gig, and she arrived in the city alongside three of her children, 11-year-old daughter Estere, with her twin sister Stella and brother David, 18. The 'Material Girl' hitmaker has been delighting audiences on the European dates of her greatest hits tour, as she's brought out some of her children.



## Tiffany Haddish charged with DUI case following arrest

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress-comedian Tiffany Haddish, who was arrested this Thanksgiving, reportedly has been officially charged with driving under the influence of alcohol. This arrived after Haddish was collared early on Friday morning, November 24 in Beverly Hills, California, reports aceshowbiz.com.

"We responded to a call of a vehicle on the roadway at 5.45 this morning," a watch commander for the Beverly Hills Police Department told Page Six. He also noted officers were told the driver was "asleep behind the wheel."

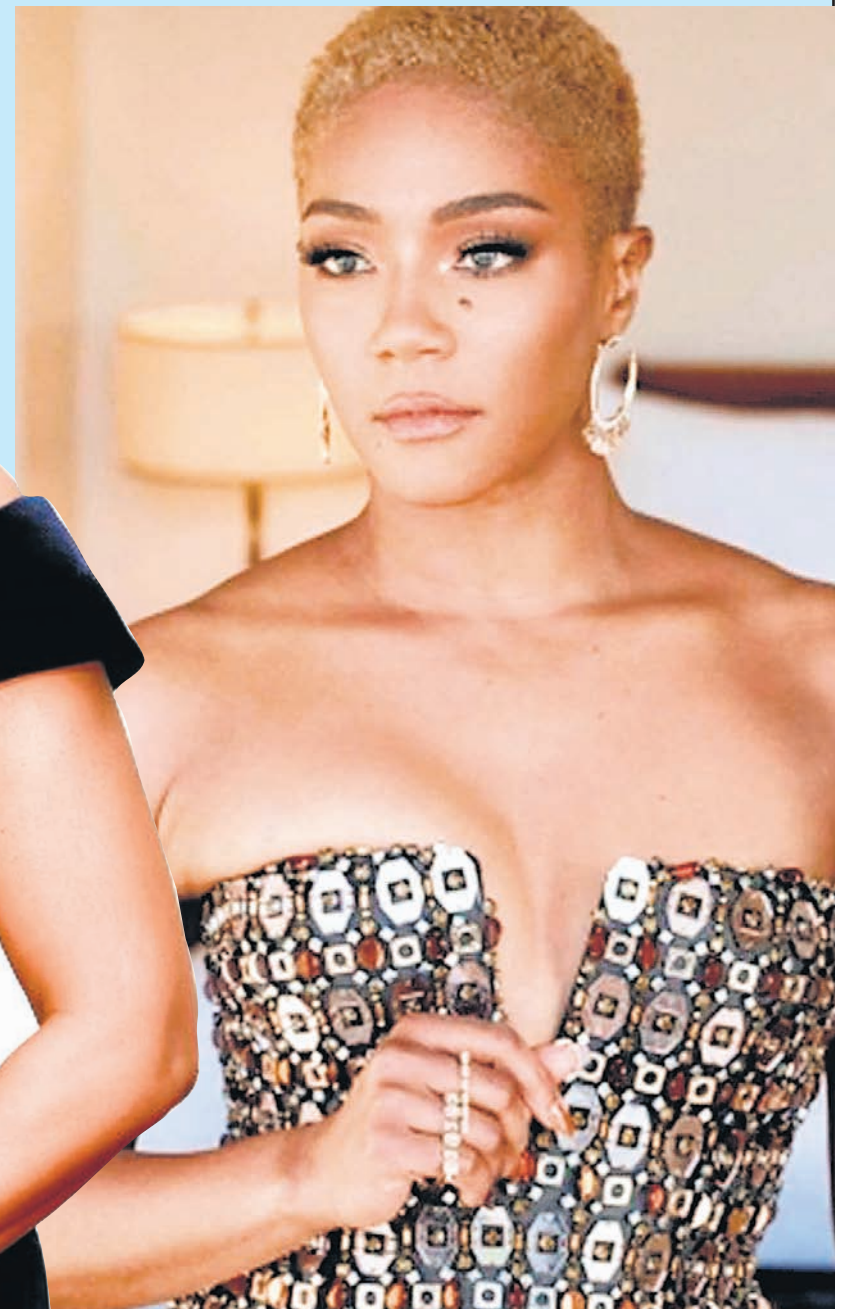
Sources additionally told the outlet that Tiffany's car was "stopped in lanes of traffic" and not pulled over to the side. It means any vehicles that were driving in the area at that time would have had to go around her car.

According to a video obtained by TMZ, Tiffany appeared cooperative when police put her in handcuffs and walked her to the back of their vehicle. She was seen wearing a floral red and white blouse, black leggings and black sneakers.

This is not Tiffany's first DUI case. Back in January 2022, she was arrested for a DUI and improper stopping on a roadway after she appeared to be dozing behind the wheel.

Despite her run-in with the law, Tiffany made light of it and joked about the arrest during another set at The Laugh Factory. Responding to an audience member who asked "what happened" last night, she said, "I prayed to God to send me a man with a job. A career. Preferably in a uniform. God answered my prayers."

She later said that she needs to "get help." She told Entertainment Tonight a few days after the incident: "I'm going to get some help so I can learn balance and boundaries."



## Taraji P. Henson wants to create 'legacy' in Hollywood

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Taraji P. Henson has always had to fight "tooth and nail" for her success, but she's now keen to support the next generation of black actresses. Speaking to The Hollywood Reporter, Taraji explained: "Listen, I've been doing this for two decades and sometimes I get tired of fighting because I know what I do is bigger than me. I know that the legacy I leave will affect somebody coming up behind me."

"My prayer is that I don't want these black girls to have the same fights that me and Viola (Davis), Octavia (Spencer), we out here tugging it out. Otherwise, why am I doing this? For my own vanity? There's no blessing in that."

Henson feels she actually has a responsibility to support younger actresses, reports female-first.co.uk. She shared: "I've tried twice to walk away (from the business). But I can't, because if I do, how does that help the ones coming up behind me?"

The actress previously insisted that celebrities suffer "a lot" of everyday problems.

The Hollywood star pointed out that the rich and famous are still real people, insisting they are not "superheroes".

## Jennifer Aniston reveals what it was like filming steamy scene with Jon Hamm

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Jennifer Aniston admitted that her sex scene with Jon Hamm was rather choreographed. The actress shared that she felt super comfortable going through the motions with her co-star in 'The Morning Show', reports Mirror.co.uk.

In the presence of their director, Mimi Leder, Jennifer said she felt plenty supported. When they were offered, the actors declined to have an intimacy coordinator on set with them. In recent years, an intimacy coordinator has become more normal on sets in Hollywood.

Jennifer told Variety that when she asked to know more about their role, she was told:

"Where someone asks you if you're OK."

As per Mirror.co.uk, she worried that the sex scene would get more awkward and felt both actors were "seasoned" enough to figure it out. However, according to SAG-AFTRA, the role goes much further. They define the role as "an advocate, a liaison between actors and production...in regard to nudity and simulated sex and other intimate and hyper-exposed scenes".

The union strongly recommends intimacy coordinators be present for scenes involving nudity and sex.

Nonetheless, Jennifer explained to Variety in their interview that she was from the "olden days" and trusted her director and editor for guidance. Reese Witherspoon, who was also present for the conversation, dismissed the notion that the scene itself was "explicit". In terms of the more romantic side of relationships her character explores, Jennifer said she has a "bad picker" and radar when it comes to live interests.



## Greta Gerwig named Cannes Film Festival 2024 jury president

Los Angeles | Agencies

Director Greta Gerwig, who set the box-office on fire with her film 'Barbie', will preside over the jury of the 2024 Cannes Film Festival.

'Barbie' grossed \$1.4 billion at the global box office this year and just picked up nine Golden Globe nominations. Gerwig has attended Cannes alongside her partner Noah Baumbach before, notably in 2017 when his 'The Meyerowitz Stories' premiered, but she's never presented a film there, reports Variety.

There were early talks to bring 'Barbie' to Cannes earlier this year but the timing didn't work. The Warner Bros. movie was released on July 19 and became an instant classic and the highest-grossing worldwide movie of the year. On top of leading the Golden Globe nominations, 'Barbie' is also expected to land numerous Oscar nominations.

"I love films - I love making them, I love going to them, I love talking about them. As a cinephile, Cannes has always been the pinnacle of what the universal language of movies can be," Gerwig said in a statement, accessed by Variety.

"Being in the place of vulnerability, in a dark the-

atre filled with strangers, watching a brand-new film is my favourite place to be. I am stunned and thrilled and humbled to be serving as the president of the Cannes Film Festival Jury. I cannot wait to see what journeys are in store for all of us," she added.

Two-time Palme d'Or winner Ruben Ostlund presided over the 2023 Cannes jury.

As per Variety, Gerwig will be the first American female director to take on the role of jury president at the Cannes Film Festival. At the age of 40, she's also the youngest person to take on the role since Sophia Loren, who was 31 when she presided over Cannes' jury in 1966.

Other notable female jury presidents include Jane Campion in 2014 and Olivia de Havilland, Cannes' first female jury president, in 1965.

Starting out as an actor, Greta Gerwig broke through as a solo director with 'Lady Bird' in 2017. She became the fifth woman to be nominated for best director and the movie earned a total of five Oscar nominations. Her next film, 'Little Women', was also a critical hit and was nominated for five Oscars, winning best costume design. With 'Barbie', Gerwig became the most bankable female director in history.



## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Megan Thee Stallion





## Tejasswi Prakash opens about her relationship with Karan

Team Absolute | Mumbai

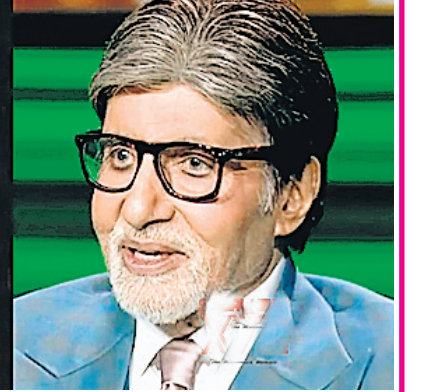
Television actress Tejasswi Prakash has spoken about her relationship with her actor boyfriend Karan Kundrra and how they have set a bar for couple goals. Talking about her relationship with Karan and the fandom #TejRan have, she said, "Why do you think people love us? We weren't the most perfect couple inside the (Bigg Boss) house! We fought; we didn't speak to each other for a time period inside the house."

"Then we've patched up and been the most real couple, which is why people love us. We have never tried to portray ourselves as the most ideal couple."

She added, "We have shown how real couples are, and real couple's fight in real world."

The actress said she and her beau are both "strong minded" people. She added: "Especially when two strong people are together. Karan is a very strong-minded person, and I am too. And when two strong-headed people come together, fights are bound to happen."

Karan revealed the reason why he believes in reality shows. He said: "There's a reason I believe in reality shows like Temptation Island India: I met my partner in a reality show of this kind, and such shows test your true love. You come out stronger from the experience."



## When Amitabh Bachchan listened to SD Burman sing his compositions

Team Absolute | New Delhi

Reminiscing about the legendary music director and singer Sachin Dev Burman, megastar Amitabh Bachchan shared how he was fortunate enough to have a chance and sit with the former and listen to his compositions. S. D. Burman started his career with Bengali films in 1937, and later composed for Hindi movies. As a playback singer, he sang 14 Hindi and 13 Bengali film songs. His son, R. D. Burman, was also a celebrated music composer for Bollywood films.

In the episode 88 of the quiz based reality show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati 15', host Amitabh welcomed Ranjeet Kumar Singh, from Ramgarh, Bihar to the hot seat.

For Rs 6,40,000, he was asked: "Which music composer is the subject of a biography with the subtitle 'The Prince-Musician'?" The options given were: S. D. Burman, Khayyam, O. P. Nayyar and Madan Mohan. The correct answer was S. D. Burman.

Amitabh then went on to say: "It was a tough question. The title portrays that R. D. Burman's father, Sachin Dev Burman was Tripura's erstwhile royalty. A member of the royal family and a distinguished artist. We're fortunate that I had the chance to sit with him and listen to his compositions and sing along."

"His music was prominent in old films. Yes, especially during 'Abhimaan'. It was his music and in his house here, he would sit and play music. And he would sing it too. His voice was wonderful. And he sang many of his songs like 'Sun mere Bandhu'," added the 'Piku' actor.

## Sonu Sood gives sneak peek into his roller coaster ride from shoot of upcoming movie



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actor Sonu Sood has shared a behind-the-scenes video from the shoot of his upcoming film, and it shows him taking on an exciting adventure through the mountains, showcasing not only stunning landscapes, but also his dedication to a healthy and adventurous lifestyle.

Mumbai, Dec 14 (IANS) Actor Sonu Sood has shared a behind-the-scenes video from the shoot of his upcoming film, and it shows him taking on an exciting adventure through the mountains, showcasing not only stunning landscapes, but also his dedication to a healthy and adventurous lifestyle.

Taking to Instagram, Sonu shared a Reel video, wherein he can be seen only wearing shorts, and riding a bullet bike. He can also be seen meeting the tourists on the way.

As the engine roars amid majestic peaks, Sonu blends adrenaline-pumping adventure with unwavering fitness. The mountainous terrain transforms from a picturesque backdrop to an active playground, where he pushes the boundaries as a fitness enthusiast.

On winding roads and challenging elevations, Sonu revealed the rugged beauty of the landscape and his commitment to a healthy lifestyle. Each twist and turn symbolizes the adventure of staying fit.

## Kerala Chalachitra Academy in disarray as members seek removal of chairman

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Trouble is brewing in the premier Malayalam film body - Kerala State Chalachitra Academy - as nine out of the 15-member board have sought the removal of Renjith as the chairman of the academy.

This meeting took place on the penultimate day of the 28th International Film Festival of Kerala. When this meeting was going on, Renjith was present in his room next door to the meeting venue.

For a while things have been blowing hot and cold in the academy and things have flared up when award winning film director Biju resigned from the post of director of the



Kerala State Film Development Corporation.

The reason why he quit were the curt remarks made by Renjith about Biju's film that was screened at the ongoing film festival.

Incidentally, after Biju protested, State Minister of Films Saji Cheriyan intervened and promised that things will be sorted out.

Now with the festival to end on Friday and when the academy gets back to its routine work, this issue is certainly going to surface as the first shot has

been fired when the majority of the board of the academy want Renjith to step down.

## JOY, BLISS THE WORDS WHICH COME TO ADITYA'S MIND HEARING ANANYA'S NAME

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actor Aditya Roy Kapur, who was recently seen in 'The Night Manager', has said that joy and bliss are the words that come to his mind on mentioning of actress Ananya Panday's name.

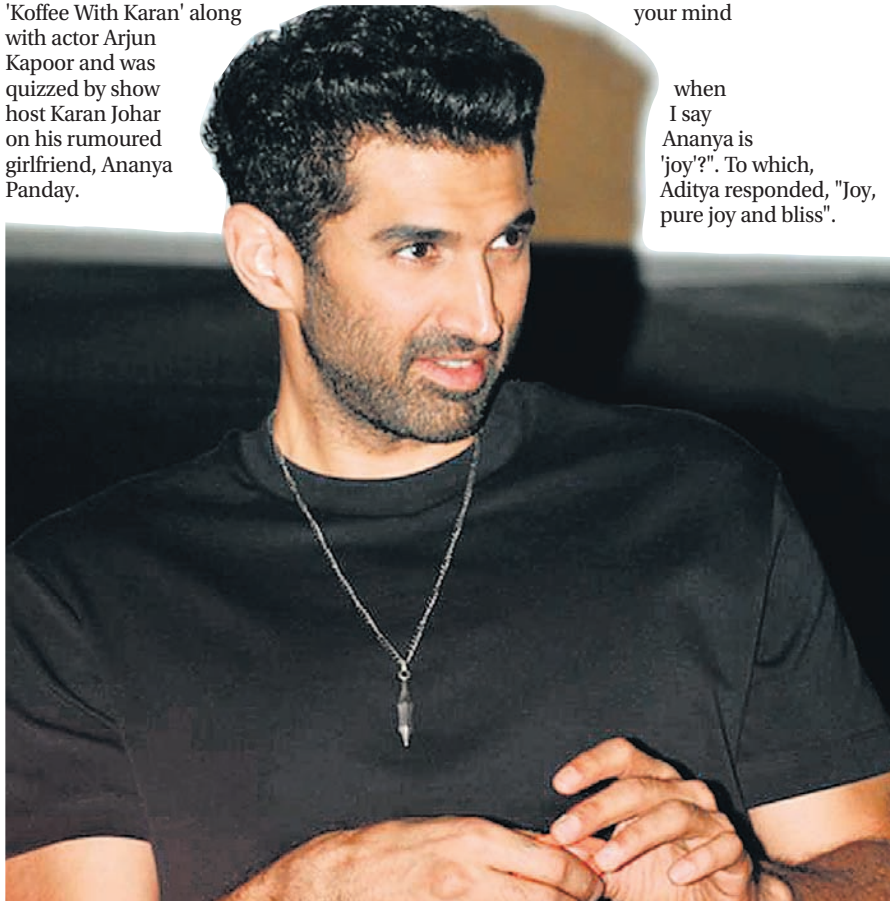
The actor graced the latest episode of 'Koffee With Karan' along with actor Arjun Kapoor and was quizzed by show host Karan Johar on his rumoured girlfriend, Ananya Panday.

KJo said that he had asked Ananya during a previous episode of the show about her equation with Aditya to which Ananya had replied, saying, "I'm feeling Ananya Coy Kapur".

Taking from that, Aditya said that he is "Aditya Joy Kapur". He said, "I'm quite joyous".

Karan said, "So the first word that comes to your mind

when I say Ananya is 'joy'?. To which, Aditya responded, "Joy, pure joy and bliss".



"ONCE WE REACH THAT STAGE, WE WILL COME AND TALK ABOUT IT TOGETHER : ARJUN KAPOOR

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Bollywood actor Arjun Kapoor, who graced the latest episode of the streaming chat show 'Koffee With Karan' along with actor Aditya Roy Kapur, is not the one to speak on the topic of his marriage plans with his girlfriend Malaika Arora.

During the course of the episode, show host Karan Johar asked Arjun about whether he and Malaika have any plans to take their relationship to the next level anytime soon.

Responding to the same, the '2 States' actor said: "I think at this point, and as much as I love coming on your show and being as honest and sincere about it, I think this is the part of my life that right now I want to take it as it comes. I think it's unfair to be sitting here without her and talking about the future. I think that would be the most respectful thing."

He further mentioned: "Once we reach that stage, we will come and talk about it together. I'm very very happy where I am and I think we make no bones about the fact that we survived through whatever we've had to be in this comfortable, happy space. I don't want to speak about anything specifically right now because I think that's unfair to the relationship to talk alone about it."

A few months back, rumours about Arjun's split with Malaika after five years were doing rounds. However, Arjun cleared the air when he posted a romantic photo of the couple on his Instagram account to wish his ladylove on her birthday.

INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Sonam Bajwa